

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15

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O 261710Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO CNO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5495

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

COMSIXTHFLT NAPLES IT

CTF SIX NINE

COMNAVACT ROTA SP

NAVSTA ROTA SP

USS TREPANG

CONFIDENTIAL MADRID 08558

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR, MNUC, MARR, SP, US

SUBJ: PORT VISIT TO CARTAGENA AND ROTA FOR USS TREPANG

REF: (A) CNO 031256Z JUL 78, (B) CNO 052134Z JUL 78

1. SPANISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS RAISED QUESTION ABOUT PROPOSED BRIEF STOP BY TREPANG AT ROTA SEPTEMBER 3. THEY QUESTION IF THIS STOP IS REALLY NECESSARY, IN VIEW OF VISIT TO CARTAGENA BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 5. WE HAD ALREADY EXPLAINED AT JULY 19 MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE FOR POL-MIL ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS (PMAA) THAT ROTA STOP WOULD BE ONLY FOR A MATTER OF HOURS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONNEL TRANSFER (REFTEL(A)), AND TO FACILITATE THE PROPOSED EXERCISE WHICH WE HOPE TREPANG WILL BE ABLE TO CONDUCT WITH THE SPANISH NAVY PRIOR TO THE CARTAGENA VISIT. THEY ARE CLEARLY RELUCTANT, HOWEVER, TO CONFIDENTIAL

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TAKE ON TWO NPW PORT VISITS SO CLOSE TOGETHER.

2. MISSION DOES NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WISE TO PRESS SPANISH ON BRIEF STOP AT ROTA FOR TREPANG, SINCE THIS MIGHT JEOPARDIZE CHANCES FOR VISIT TO CARTAGENA, WHICH IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE AND FOR WHICH CHANCES APPEAR GOOD. THEREFORE, WE PROPOSE TO TELL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN

AFFAIRS THAT ALTHOUGH WE WOULD PREFER TO CONDUCT BRIEF STOP AT ROTA FOR REASONS NOTED ABOVE, WE ARE PREPARED TO FOREGO THIS STOP IF SPANISH CANNOT ACCOMMODATE IT. OF COURSE, IF THERE ARE VITAL OPERATIONAL REASONS FOR THE BRIEF STOP AT ROTA ON THE THIRD, WE ARE PREPARED TO PRESS FOR IT. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO GAIN SPANISH APPROVAL, WE WOULD HAVE TO BE ARMED WITH SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON WHY THE STOP IS VITAL. WE REALIZE THAT WE MAY NOT BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION OF THIS KIND TO THE SPANISH, AND THEREFORE BELIEVE ON BALANCE THAT IT MAY BE IN OUR ULTIMATE BEST INTEREST IN THIS CASE TO FOREGO THE ROTA BRIEF STOP.

3. REQUEST YOUR VIEWS SOONEST.

4. THIS IS A COORDINATED MISSION MESSAGE. TODMAN

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NNN

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